



Dungog & Gresford Parishes

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

Incorporating worshipping communities at **St Mary's Church**, Brown Street, Dungog, **St Patrick's Church**, Rifle Street, Clarence Town, **St Helen's Church**, Park Street, East Gresford, **Sacred Heart Church**, Summerhill Road, Summer Hill via Vacy, and serving the surrounding districts.

SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2023

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Parish Staff

Fr Andrew Doohan (*Parish Priest*)
Kerry Copus (*Parish Secretary*)

Presbytery & Parish Office

55 Brown Street, Dungog
PO Box 24, Dungog NSW 2420

P: (02) 4992 1477

E: dungog.parish@mn.catholic.org.au

W: www.dungoggresfordcatholic.org.au

Emergency contact for Fr Andrew: 0412 405 671.

Office Hours

The Parish Office is staffed on Tuesdays from 10am until 2pm & Fridays from 10am until 1pm.

Parish Bulletin

Items for inclusion in the Parish Bulletin should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays. Copies of the Bulletin are available from the Parish website and are updated weekly.

Other Contacts

Clarence Town Val Preece—0403 251 434,
 (02) 4996 4474, or email
 vip_1@bigpond.com

Gresford Faith Banister
 0427 536 248

Safeguarding Promotion

For all safeguarding concerns within the parishes, please contact Fr Andrew in the first instance at the Parish Office (or mobile in emergencies).

Parish School

St Joseph's Primary School
49 Brown Street, Dungog NSW 2420
Mrs Lisa McNeilly (*Principal*)

P: (02) 4992 1377

E: admin@dungog.catholic.edu.au

W: www.dungog.catholic.edu.au



Position Vacant—Manager, Bishop's Office

The Manager, Bishop's Office reports to the Chancellor and manages all aspects of the Bishop's Office, supporting, coordinating, and overseeing all the work tasks completed by the team in the Bishop's Office to ensure quality of work and deadlines are upheld to the highest standard.

For more information about this position, please go to www.cdmn.elmotalent.com.au/careers/dio/job/view/2563/.

Applications close 16 November.

ACU Public Lecture on Liturgy

In the lead up to the 60th anniversary of Vatican II's *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (its Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy dated 4 December 1963), the ACU Centre for Liturgy is proud to present an exciting (and FREE) public lecture by acclaimed liturgical historian and theologian **Rev Professor John F. Baldovin SJ** (Boston College).

The lecture will take place live in person on ACU's Melbourne Campus on **Sunday 3 December 2023** at **5pm** AEDT on the topic "A Liturgical Reform in Peril? Sacrosanctum Concilium sixty years on." Fr Baldovin's public lecture will also be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person.

Further information and registration details for this unique and valuable event, and a flyer if desired, can be found at the following link: bit.ly/3Q05IXI.

For more information on the events, please contact CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au.

Gaza Crisis Appeal

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs.

"This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated needs for the people in Gaza and West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this devastating conflict," Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Lead, Caritas Australia said.

With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict.

You can donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413

Dungog Christmas Lunch

This year's Dungog Parish Christmas Lunch will take place on Sunday 26 November at 12pm. The cost will be \$15. Please add your name to the list on the bulletin board if you are planning to attend.

Add the date to your diary now!

Masses For Deceased In November

Once again we will be celebrating a Mass in each of our local worshipping communities to remember those parishioners who have died, and especially those who have died in the past year.

Although in the past these Masses have at times been celebrated at the local cemeteries, not all those whom we might wish to remember are buried there. Accordingly, these Masses will take place in our church buildings instead.

Summer Hill	Sunday 12 November 11.30am
Clarence Town	Thursday 16 November 5.30pm
Dungog	Wednesday 22 November 5.30pm
East Gresford	Saturday 25 November 5.30pm

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Advent Program 2023

The Diocese has produced an Advent Program for Advent 2023 entitled *With Anticipation and Joy* for use by those in the parish who may wish to use it, either individually or as part of a group.

A copy of the resource can be found on our website (under the 'Resources') tab.

If parishioners are unable to download and print a copy of the resource themselves, please contact the Parish Office who are able to do that for you.

The Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford recognize we stand upon the traditional country of Gringai clan of the Worimi people, who have walked upon and cared for this country for thousands of years.

We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and deep spiritual attachment and relationship to this country. We pay our respects to their Elders—past, present, and emerging—and commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation and justice.

Homily by Fr Richard Leonard SJ

One Sunday a pastor told the congregation that the church needed some extra money and asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra in the offering plate. He said that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns. After the offering plates were passed, the pastor glanced down and noticed that someone had placed a \$1000 cheque on the plate.

He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the plate.

A very quiet, elderly, saintly spinster at the back shyly raised her hand. The pastor asked her to come to the front. Slowly she made her way to the altar. He told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much and, in thanksgiving, asked her to pick out three hymns.

Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three most handsome men in the congregation and said, 'OK Father, I'll take him, him, and him.' Now that's a different take on a wise virgin!

In one sense the parable of the wise and foolish virgins could be considered the first known oil crisis in the east. It is, however, about planning for the future and pacing oneself to see that one has a future to enjoy.

In Christian theology this is called 'discernment'. St Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, wrote a lot about discernment and one of his teachings is that the Holy Spirit allows us to prepare for our future without living it.

Think for a moment of the times when we are going to have a difficult interview or a conversation we would rather not have. We play out in our mind how the interaction will run. It rarely happens how we imagine and we find that our anxiety and fear has often been misplaced. What is curious is that on the next occasion we go through this same process of trying to live the future all over again. Tragically, some people are so anxious about their future that they try and control it, and everyone associated with it. It's always a disaster.

St Ignatius was suspicious of this process. Ignatius seems to have understood today's Gospel very well. The early church thought Jesus would return quickly. There was a crisis of faith when he didn't. Some Christians lived as though this imminent return was a fact. We are still waiting. Matthew tells us then, that the Christian life is about wisdom, right judgment and reading the signs of the times.

St Ignatius tells us the best way to prepare for the future is to let go of the unhealed past, as best as we can, and live in the here and now. The Holy Spirit helps us see what needs to be done today and what preparation is necessary for tomorrow. This is such simple and sound advice and yet many of us don't heed it. For some of us it takes nothing to feel the hurt and pain of our past or to be consumed by the future.

Alcoholics Anonymous sums it up neatly when it tells us to take life 'one day at a time' which is another way of saying what Matthew's community came to see, 'keep awake because you know not the time or place'.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Living in hope

A feature of Christian faith is an approach to life that views the future with hope. In our world today many people look to the future with distrust and even fear. As Christians, we look forward with hope. When change occurs, some allow that change to happen to them whilst others engage in the change process and approach it with hope and expectation. Today's gospel reminds us to be ready for what the future holds; to look with hope towards what lies ahead, but to ensure that we've prepared ourselves properly. The future can only be viewed with expectant hope if we've done the proper preparation!

Peace in the Holy Land & Other Place

We continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land, between Israel and Palestine, and other places in the world where war and violence reign.

We pray for an end to all violence, and the establishment of true peace based on the presence of true justice for all people who live in the Holy Land.

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

32nd Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 13 November

Tuesday 14 November

Wednesday 15 November

NO MASS Fr Andrew in Newcastle for University Ethics Committee

Thursday 16 November

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

5.30pm Mass for Deceased Parishioners @ Clarence Town

Friday 17 November

Memorial of St Elizabeth of Hungary

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 18 November

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 19 November

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Wisdom 6:12-16

Psalm Psalm 62

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

2nd Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Acclamation Matthew 24:42, 44

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready;

you know not when the Son of Man is coming
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world,

for by your Cross and Resurrection

you have set free..



Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 19 November. Please bring a plate to share, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November:

"We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit."

Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is important.

Our Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford are committed to fostering communities of safety and care.

We acknowledge our legal, moral, and spiritual responsibilities to care for and uphold the dignity and rights of children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Where was the bride?

It may seem a little odd that the bridegroom was travelling to the wedding hall by himself. What appears to have been the custom is that the bridesmaids escorted the bride to the hall whilst the groom remained behind to settle matters with the bride's family. Whilst the bride price, or dowry, would have been agreed well before the wedding, the family would emphasise and even haggle over the value of gifts to further reinforce the great value of the bride and the wise choice that the groom and his family had made.

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In November: Irma Iacono, Jean Harrison, Francis Kealy, Terry Amos, Raymond Dillon, Lee Murphy, Jenny Taylor, and all the faithful departed.

Those Who Are Sick: Maryann Smith, Daphne Bond, Maree McCulloch, Leonie Young, Lisa Reid, Bev Herbert, Denise Wenden, Warren Wade, Irene Robinson, Luke Barry, Kathie Maynard, Kevin Ward, David Loudon, Michaela Brown, Phillip Hartup, Bella Duggan, Ella Rusak, Matthew Kerr, Anne Newman, Graham McCarthy.